

Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2)

April 21, 2008

Grand Rapids

Approved Meeting Minutes

Start Time: 9:05 am

Members Present: Rich Studley, Dennis Gillow, Mike Nystrom, Susan Zehnder, Rep. Pam Byrnes, Roger Salo, Cindy Elliott, Peter Varga, Rep. Phil LaJoy, Sen. Jud Gilbert, Sen. Glenn Anderson

CAC Member Present: Brent Bair, James Klett, Kirk Steudle, Steward Sandstrom, Bill Gehman, James Koslosky

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda was approved unanimously.

Public comment (remarks from all three public comment sessions reported here):

- 1) David Bulkowski: Disability advocates of Kent County. Discussed local support for public transit.
- 2) Rae Bower – citizen of GR. Transportation funding makes it difficult for disabled to travel independently. Please consider disabled when making transportation funding decisions.
- 3) Peter Varga-The Rapid: The Rapid has been a successful transit operation and is breaking ground as a federal ‘new starts’ qualified agency with its pending bus rapid transit program.
- 4) Andy Guy – Project director for Mi Land Use Institute. In order to diversify transportation system, need to diversify sources of transportation funding (if all our funding comes from autos, all our funding will go towards accommodating autos).
- 5) Casey Dutmer, Concerned Citizens for Good Transportation in Kent County, also advisor to Rapid for elderly and disabled. Transportation is a sound economic investment in community.
- 6) David Worthums on behalf of MML: This might be a good time to look at ending IDGs and replacing with service fees. Offered assistance of Michigan Municipal League.

Report from CAC:

Committee elected Gretchen Driskell as chair, has created its subcommittees (Highways, Roads, and Bridges; Intermodal Passenger, Intermodal Freight, Aviation, and Intermodal Integration) and named chairs for each. Meeting dates have been established and posted.

Follow up: E-mail TF2 list of CAC members, committee assignments, and meeting dates.

Report from Grand Valley Metro Council:

Don Stypula, Executive Director, gave GVMC background and recommendations.

Report on Transportation Revenue:

Leon Hank covered revenue sources at the federal, state and local levels; some Michigan has in place, others it would have to enact.

State and Federal Funding Mechanisms:

Aarne Frobom (MDOT) briefly explained Michigan's Act 51, the primary surface funding mechanism for the state and the basics of federal aid.

Follow up:

- Ask Treasury to explain classification of MTF as non-trust fund account to TF2, and look into work done by HFA, SFA, and other budget watchers.
- Generate a report on history of debt levels and issuance
- Provide TF members with information on MDOT economic reports and job creation numbers
- Provide a list of earmark projects that will remain undone at the end of SAFETEA-LU
- Provide information on parts of the federal law that are helpful/obstructive to tolling, with an eye toward determining what we can and can not do with tolling.

Revenue options of particular interest:

- Short-term and long-term.
- Tolling – especially for reconstruction.
- Local option taxes (sales and others).
- Michigan Constitution issues
- Regional, especially for transit
- Impact fees & regional outcomes
- Fairness issues – distribution formulas.
- Indexing (reform)
- Present in table format with critical issues & information to judge options

Follow-up:

- Varga and Elliott to work with MDOT to determine short, medium and long term, and look at criteria for grading options.
- Brent Bair to contact business group to present on local option taxes at June meeting.

Communication to the CAC:

There were no communications from TF2 to the CAC

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.